(iv) Greater use of quick-setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.

(v) Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs for loading operations in below ground mines.

(vi) Continued efforts towards induction of capital intensive mechanised longwall mining with powered support, where workmen work under skin-to-skin steel roof support in underground mines.

Inefficiency in R & D Wing of Ordnance Units

316. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research and Development Wing of the Ordnance units of the country is very poor and out of date;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to inefficient R & D of Ordnance units country had to import vital ammunitions at a very heavy cost during the period from 1992-1993 to 1997-98; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking adequate steps to clear this bottleneck without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) The Research & Development (R & D) in the sphere of defence systems, new generation of arms and ammunition and equipment is primarily the responsibility of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), under the Department of Defence Research in the Ministry of Defence.

The R & D activity of Ordnance factories is restricted to product and process improvement only. As such the question of import of ammunition due to failure of R & D activities of ordnance factories does not arise. Imports do take place to meet enhanced requirements of the Armed Forces of items in existing product line or because of induction into service of new generation arms and equipment not developed indigenously.

Design Deficiency in SU-30 MK Aircraft

†317. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to make an enquiry to find out the reasons for deteriorating combat capabilities of country's fighter aircrafts.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that many important files of Ministry of Defence including a file relating to defence purchase deal are missing and as a result of which the investigation being conducted by the Central Vigilance Commission is hampered;

(b) if so, the number of the missing files and the related matters thereof;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to search the said files; if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any action is being taken against the persons responsible for maintenance of these files; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) As on date, as per the available records, 4 files relating to defence purchase deals are still being traced. As regards, the file relating to banning of middlemen/ agents/middle companies in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems, the same has since been retrieved and sent to the Central Vigilance Commission on July 21, 2000.

Air crashes

†320. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:
SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG aircrafts which met with accidents during the last three years and the current year, so far, year-wise;

(b) the number of pilots died and wounded in these accidents;

(c) whether any thorough enquiry of these accidents has ever been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and whether any technical fault has been detected in these MIG aircrafts; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps to prevent such accidents of fighter aircrafts meant to defend the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.